

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS, CHAIR

APPROPRIATIONS

AGRICULTURE

SMALL BUSINESS

April 29, 2013

Craig Fugate, Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate:

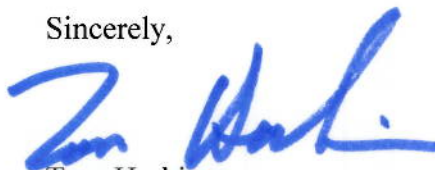
I am writing to express my full support of Governor Terry Branstad's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration covering portions of the state of Iowa in response to severe weather between April 9 and 11, 2013; and that this declaration provide Public Assistance Program funding for the severely impacted counties of Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola and Sioux. With the public safety at stake, this declaration will allow federal aid to immediately supplement state and local response efforts.

Beginning April 9th, damaging winds, heavy rains, thunderstorms and freezing rains, ice and snow caused damage to public and private property, power outages from downed power lines and poles, and a large amount of debris. Vital local transportation, telecommunications, electrical and public safety systems were severely disrupted. As temperatures remained below freezing, emergency shelters were opened and utilized as warming stations until electrical services were restored.

According to preliminary estimates, the amount of damage caused by this storm system exceeds the threshold for the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act's eligibility. As Governor Branstad's disaster declaration request indicates, this incident is of such severity that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments; therefore, supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

I therefore urge you to assist the State of Iowa and the affected counties in every way possible so they may quickly recover from this disaster. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator

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The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

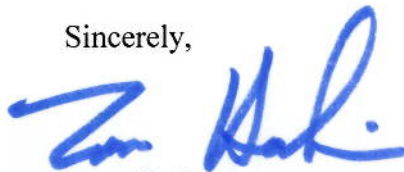
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